

A FIRST BOOK

LYRICAL POETRY

TREBLE & VALLINS

AND LAN EDITON WITH MOTOR

OXFORD UXIVERSITY PRESS BOMBLY GALCUTTA MADRAS



A FIRST BOOK
OF
LYRICAL POETRY





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A FIRST BOOK LYRICAL POETRY

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INTRODUCTION

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PROSE AND VERSE

To see the outward difference between prose and verse we have only to turn over the pages of this book. This introduction is written in prose form; but the peems which follow it are all of them written in verse. Even if the book is held so far away that we cannot read the words, we can tell which is the prose and which the verse by the very form and arrangement of the printing. We might say, perhaps, that the prose runs straight on, but that the verse is measured out into lines that seem to have some definite length. That would be quite true some definite length. That would be quite true some definite length. The would be quite true measurement. Probably we have often seen figures representing the length of the lines printed at the top of hymns in a hymn-book, like this?

2.7.7.7.
Oft to danger, oft in woe,
Onward, Christians, onward go;
Fight the fight, maintain the strife,
Strengthened with the bread of his.

Those four sevens tell us that the stanza contains four lines, each of which is seven syllables long. The syllable is the unit of measurement for verse, just as the inch is a unit of ordinary measurement. Knowing that, we can measure up a stanza for our-selves, by marking off the syllables. Let us take the first four lines of the poor on p. 41:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 A wet sheet and a flowing sea, I 2 3 4 5 6 A wind that follows fast I 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 And fills the white and rustling sail I 2 3 4 5 6 And bends the gallant mast.

The figures which represent the measure or metre of those lines are 8.6.8.6. It is just as simple a matter to find the metre of any other poem in the book.

But there is no reason, after all, why prose should not be printed in lines containing a definite number of syllables. Here is a sentence printed in measured lines:

> This sentence is printed in lines of a definite length, each with seven syllables, but it does not make a verse

It does not make a verse because metre is not the neal thing that distinguishes verse from prose. There is something far more important. Some of the first verses we ever heard or said were nursery rhymes. When we said aloud or half-sang

Mary, Mary, Quite contrary, How does your garden grow?

or

Old Mother Hubbard, She went to the cupboard To give her poor dog a bone,

" How many miles is it to Babylon?"
"Threescore miles and ten, sir."
"Can I get there by candlo-light?"
"Yes, and back again, sir,"

we marked in our voice the "beat" of the syllables which gave a "swing" to the lines; probably we HE HUILD AS WE SAIL MILM. 100 AME AT hat same swing or movement which makes us march n step to the sound of music. Certain syllables in he lines were accented or stressed, and the accent fell egularly, so that we could beat time to it. Perhaps se find, even now, that we fall into "sing-song when we read verse. It is because of the regular occurrence of the accent. We can understand this perfectly if we read the following stanza, stressing hard the syllables which are marked ;

I wandered lovely as a cloud That floats on high o'er vales and hills, When all at once I saw a crowd,

A bost of golden daffodile

Beside the lake, beneath the trees,

Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

There is no doubt about the regularity of the " beat." After that, if we read quite naturally, without overstressing the marked syllables, we shall find that the "swing" still remains. It is part of the verse, and we cannot get away from it. We can mark it again, in another stanza;

> Where the blackbird sings the latest, Where the hawthorn blooms the sweetest.

> Where the nestlings chirp and fice.

That's the way for Billy and me.

Here the beat falls just as regularly, though the lines have a different swing from those in the stanza about daffodils.

This regular "beat" of the stressed or accented syllables is ealled thythm. There are accented syllables in prose-a fact we can prove for ourselves if we read this page aloud-but they do not fall regularly, so that the movement of prose is quite different from that of verse. We sometimes talk of the "lilt" of a song; and it is that "lilt" we have to put into our reading if we are to find in this book all the beauty that should be found. Mere " singsong "we must rid ourselves of immediately; and try to find instead the natural movement of the voice to give a rhythm to the words. If we ignore this, we miss the real beauty of the sound of versethe very thing that distinguishes it from prose. For verse is, after all, knit up with music; and music means the rhythm of a song, or the dancing of feet to the jig of an instrument. Even beyond that, we can find the deep idea of rhythm in Nature herselfthe ebb and flow of the tides, the swaying of boughs in the wind, and the rippling of the brook

> "That to the sleeping woods all night Singeth a quiet tune."

There is one other thing we usually think of in connection with verse. This is rhyme. We shall find that all the poems in this book are written in rhymed verse. Here is one taken at random, with the rhymes marked:

Full fathom five thy father LUES:
Of his bones are coral made;
Those are pearls that were his EYES;
Nothing of him that doth fade
But doth suffer a sea-cuance
Into something rich and SYRANCE.
Sea-nymph houly ring his heel!;
Hark I now I hear them,—
Ding, dong, bell.

The words lies-eyes, made-fade, change-strange,

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knell-bell, correspond in sound; they make rhymes. Now while we know that most English verse is rhymed like that, we must never imagine that rhyme is really necessary to verse. To realise this fact perfectly we have only to read a few lines of Hiawatha :

> He it was who carved the cradle Of the little Hrawatha, Carved its framework out of linden, Bound it strong with reindeer sinews; He it was who taught him later How to make his bows and arrows, How to make the bows of ash-tree, And the arrows of the oak-tree So among the guests assembled At my Hawatha's wedding Sat Iagoo, old and ugly,

Sat the marvellous story-teller.

There is rhythm in that, as we recognise when we read it aloud, or, better still, when we hear the beautiful music set to it by the great musician, Coleridge-Taylor. But it has no rhyme. Later on, when we study Shakespeare's plays, we shall find the same thing-that his verse has thythm but nearly always no rhyme. We are therefore brought to the conclusion that rhyme is not an essential part of verse, like metre and rhythm, but is a kind of ornament that is not absolutely necessary. That is true: rhyme gives to verse a pleasant sound. It is not a necessary part of its music.

This is called a book of lyrical poetry. A lyric was originally a poem sung to the music of a lyre or a harp: so rhythm-the beat of a song-was in its very making. The lyric could not be separated from music: it was not spoken or written down, but sung. The song was made, in the beginning, out of the poet's own emotions—his joy, his sorrow, his love, his hate, his fear, his wonder. He fashioned into the words and music of a song such feelings as we all have but cannot all express. Only the poet is able to put his emotion and imagination into the language of poetry. His eye lights upon a beautiful scene; he reads a story; he sees an interesting sight as he is out upon a journey. His imagination takes hold of such things as these, and out of it all there comes a poem. One poet sees the daffoldlis on a windy day, another hears the nightingale singing; one watches an old donkey in a field, another catches a glimpse of a little boat sailing home in the moon-light.

"Silver sails all out of the west."

We, too, have seen and heard such things; yet while they have perhaps stirred us with joy or wonder or grief, we have not been able to express our feeling in words. But the poet can. Long ago poets were called the makers (the word' poet 'means maker), because out of the thoughts that at some time or other come to us all they were able to make a beautiful thing in word and sound. Only a few of us can be makers. Daffodlis in the wind will always stur some emotion within us; but only Shakespeare, the maker, could give us the poom about

"Daffodds
That come before the swallow dares, and take
The winds of March with beauty."

When we read a true poem we say to ourselves:
"I have often thought that. Why shouldn't I have written that myself." The reason is because the poet's thought and feeling may be exactly the same as our own; but whereas we can get no forther than the thought, the poet bas been able to make his feeling into a poem.

It is important to remember these few simple things as we read this book of lyries. If we try to think with the poet, and remember that, even if we cannot make poetry as he does, at least we may have somewhere deep down within us the feelings that inspire poetry, then this book and every other book of poetry will lead us into an enchanted land, For perhaps somewhere in it we shall be able to trace fashioned by the maker into beauty and music.

our own thoughts and ideas; then we shall recognise how some ordinary feeling that may be ours can be So let us get to the poems, and read them, as poetry always should be read, in the strength of our own imagination. It is best to speak them aloud. trying all the time to feel the rhythm of the verse. and the musical sound of the words. But that is only the first step to real appreciation; we must never stop there. The second step we have to take quite alone, without the aid of book or teacher. No one can make us like a poem. Somehow, we have to try to see with the poet's eyes and hear with his ears; to find the secret of his imagination. It is no use just reading poetry as an exercise; we must feel it also. Unless we do that most of our study of this book will be in vain.

I. AND SHALL TRELAYINY DIE?

Sir Jonathan Trelawny was one of the Seven Bishops tried for sedition in the regn of James II. His fellow Cornishmen marched towards London to force his liberation from the Tower.

A GOOD sword and a trusty hand, A merry heart and true: King James's men shall understand

What Cornish lads can do.

And have they fixed the where and when?
And shall Trelawny die?

Here's twenty thousand Cornish men Will know the reason why!

Out spake their captain brave and bold, A merry wight was he: "If London Tower were Michael's hold, We'll set Trelawny free!

"We'll cross the Tamar, land to land— The Severn is no stay—

With one and all, and hand in hand,
And who shall bid us nay?

"And when we come to London Wall, A pleasant sight to view,

Come forth I come forth I ye cowards all; Here's men as good as you.

"Trelawny he's in keep and hold,
Trelawny he may die;
But here's twenty thousand Cornish bold
Will know the reason why ! "

ROBERT STEPHEN HAWKER,

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Ouestions.

I, What do you know of the Trial of the Seven Bishops? Read what you can about it in your history hooks

2. There is a note of defiance in this poem. Show how the poet has emphasised such a note by (a) direct

questions, (b) exclamations, (c) repetition.

3. Where is the Tamar? the Severn? Why is the Severn mentioned in the poem?

2. THE BRITISH SOLDIER IN CHINA

LAST night among his fellow-roughs lle jested, quaff'd, and swore: A drunken private of the Buffs Who never look'd before.

To-day, beneath the forman's frown, He stands in Elgin's place,

Ambassador from Britain's crown, And type of all her race.

Poor, reckless, rude, low-born, untaught, A heart, with English instinct fraught, Bewilder'd, and alone,

He yet can call his own. Ay I tear his body limb from limb;

Bring cord, or axe, or flame |-He only knows, that not through him

Shall England coree to shame.

Far Kentish hopfields round him seem'd Like dreams to come and go; Bright leagues of cherry blossom gleam'd,

One sheet of living snow: The smoke above his father's door In grey soft eddyings hung :-

Must he then watch it rise no more Doom'd by himself, so young?

Yes, Honour calls I—with strength like steel Let dusky Indians whine and kneel; He puts the vision by :

And thus, with eyes that would not shrink, With knee to man unbent.

Unfaltering on its dreadful brink To his red grave he went.

-Vain, mightiest fleets of iron framed;

Vain. those all-shattering guns; Unless proud England keep, untamed, The strong heart of her sons I

So, let his name through Europe ring-A man of mean estate Who died, as firm as Sparta's king,

Because his soul was great.

SIR FRANCIS HASTINGS DOVIN.

Ouestions. I, Do you think this poem has a good title? Could

you suggest a better one?

2. Why was the private of the Buffs "Ambassador from Britain's crown "? "The Buffs" are a Kentish regiment. What part of the poem reminds you of this?

3. Do you know of any incident during the Great War that can compare with this one? 4. Suppose you were saying this poem as a recitation. How would you recite stanzas 2 and 3?

3. TWO POEMS OF KINGSLEY

"The Sands of Dee "and" The Three Fishers" are both sad poems of river and sea They are like ballads in that they leave half the tale to our imagination. Into these two poems Charles Kingsley has put some of that picturesque description which charms us also in Westward Hol and The Heroes.

(i) THE THREE FISHERS

THREE fishers went sailing away to the west,

Away to the west as the sun went down:

Each thought on the woman who loved him the best, And the children stood watching them out of the town:

For men must work, and women must weep. And there's little to earn, and many to keep,

Though the harbour bar be muaning. Three wives sat up in the lighthouse tower,

And they trimmed the lamps as the sun went down;

They looked at the squall, and they looked at the

shower, And the night-rack came rolling up ragged and

brown; But men must work, and women must weep, Though storms be sudden, and waters deep,

And the harbour bar be moaning. Three corpses lay out on the shining sands, In the evening gleam, as the sun went down,

And the women are weeping and wringing their hands.

For those who will never come back to the town. For men must work, and women must weep, And the sooner 'tis over, the sooner to sleep,'

And good-bye to the bar and its moaning.; CHARLES KINGSLEY.

Questions.

What do you take to be (a) the most picturesque,
 the saddest, line in the poem? What do you notice about the last line in each stanza?

z. There are three pictures in the poem. Give a title to each of them.

(ii) THE SANDS OF DEE "O Mary, go and call the cattle home,—

And call the cattle home, And call the cattle home

Across the sands o' Dee!"
(The western wind was wild and dark wi' foam,

And all alone went she.

The creeping tide came up along the sand,
And o'er and o'er the sand,
And round and round the sand.

And round and round the sand,
As far as eye could see.

The blinding mist came down and hid the land: And never home came she.

"Oh, is it weed, or fish, or floating hair— A tress o' golden hair,

O' drowned maiden's hair, Above the nets at sea? "

Was never salmon yet that shone so fair Among the stakes on Dee.

They row'd her in across the rolling foam,
The cruel crawling foam,

The cruel hungry loam, To her grave beside the sea:

But still the boatmen hear her call the cattle home, Across the sands o' Dee.

CHARLES KINGSLEY. Ouestions.

Does the poet actually tell us that Mary was drowned? How does he make us think she was?
 How has the poet made his poem mounful?
 What levend is referred to? Do you know any

3. What legend is referred to? Do you know any other legend of the sea or the river?

4. ROSABELLE

This poem is a ballad, that is, a poem in which a story is sung as if by a minarted in the olden days. The minstrel usually told only half the tale: the other half he left to the imagination of the listeners. So a ballad is nasully a poem of the ball-told tale. Sir Walter Scott, who wrote this poem, loved to tell in proce or verse stories of love and war-

O LISTEN, listen, ladies gay ! No haughty feat of arms ! tell; Soft is the note, and sad the lay, That mourns the lovely Rosabelle.—

" Moor, moor the barge, ye gallant crew ! And, gentle lady, deign to stay ! Rest thee in Castle Ravensheuch, Nor tempt the stormy firth to-day.

- "The blackening wave is edged with white:
 To inch and rock the sea-mews fly;
 The fishers have heard the Waiter-Sprite,
 Whose screams forebode that wreck is nig
- "Last night the gifted Seer did view A wet shroud swathed round lady gay; Then stay thee, Fair, in Ravensheuch: Why cross the gloomy firth to-day?"
- "Tis not because Lord Lindesay's heir To-night at Roslin leads the ball, But that my ladye-mother there Sits lonely in her castle-hall.
 - "Tis not because the ring they ride, And Lindesay at the ring rides well, But that my sire the wine will chide, If 'tis not fill'd by Rosabella."—

O'er Roslin all that dreary night A wondrous blaze was seen to gle Twas broader than the watch-fire's li And redder than the bright moonly

It glared on Roslin's castled rock. It ruddied all the conse-wood glen; Twas seen from Dryden's groves of oak, And seen from cavern'd Hawthornden.

Seem'd all on fire that chapel proud, Where Roslin's chiefs uncollin'd he, Each Baron, for a sable shroud, Sheathed in his iron panophy.

Seem'd all on fire within, around, Deep sacristy and altar's pale; Shone every pillar foliage-bound, And glimmer'd all the dead men's mail.

Blazed battlement and pinnet high, Blazed every rose-carved buttress fair-So still they blaze, when fate is nigh The lordly line of high St. Clair.

There are twenty of Roslin's barons bold Lie buried within that proud chapelle; Each one the holy vault doth pold—

But the sea holds lovely Rosabelle ! And each St. Clair was buried there,

With candle, with book, and with knell; But the sca-caves rung, and the wild winds sung, The dire of lovely Rocatelle-

SIR WALTER SCOTT.

Owestiens. 1. How does the poet give you the idea that a minatrel is singing this poem?

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2. Would you call this poem "a half-told tale"? What parts of it are left to your imagination? Tell the full story in your own words.

3. What phrases or words in the poem give you an idea of (i) stormy weather, (ii) weirdness, (iii) landscape?
4. Compare this poem with the one on the next page

Which do you like the better?

5. BRIGNALL BANKS

This is another of Sur Waller Scott's ballads. If you read Rosabelle and this one together you will notice a likeness in the language and what is called the "atmosphere" of the two poems.

O, Brignall banks are wild and fair, And Greta woods are green, And you may gather garlands there, Would grace a summer queen: And as I rode by Dalton Hall, Beneath the turrets high,

A Maiden on the castle wall Was singing merrily :-

"O, Brignall banks are fresh and fair, And Greta woods are green! I'd rather rove with Edmund there Than reign our English Queen."

"II, Maiden, thou wouldst wend with me To leave both tower and town, Thou first must guess what life lead we, That dwell by dale and down: And if thou canst that riddle read,

As read full well you may,
Then to the green-wood shalt thou speed
As blithe as Queen of May,"

Yet sung she, "Brignall banks are fair, And Greta woods are green! I'd rather rove with Edmund there Than reign our English Overn.

"I read you by your burle horn And by your pallrey good, I read you for a Ranger sworn To keep the King's green wood."

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"A Ranger, Lady, winds his horn, And 'tis at peep of light; His blast is heard at merry morn, And mine at dead of night."

Yet sung she, "Brignall banks are fair, And Greta woods are gay! I would I were with Edmund there, To reign his Queen of May!

"With burnish'd brand and musketoon So gallantly you come, I read you for a bold Dragoon,

That lists the tuck of dram.

"I list no more the tuck of drum, No more the trumpet hear;

But when the beetle sounds his hum, My comrades take the spear.

"And OI though Brignall banks be fair, And Greta woods be gay, Yet mickle must the maiden dare,

Would reign my Queen of May !
"Maiden! a nameless life! lead.

A nameless death I'll die;
The fiend whose lantern lights the mead
Were better mate than I I
And when I'm with my comrades met

Beneath the green wood bough, What once we were we all forget, Nor think what we are now."

Thorus. Yet Brignall banks are fresh and fift, And Greta woods are green, And you may gather flowers there, Would grace a summer queen.

SIR WALTER SCOTT.

Questions.

I. What is the subject of this poem? Who is the chief knight of the ereen-wood in the old stories? What do you know of him?

"But when the beetle sounds his hum, 2. My comrades take the spear."

What is the meaning of these two lines?

3. Old and strange words are often used in ballads. Find any words strange to you in this poem and in Rosabelle. What do they mean?

4. Do you think this poem would go well to music?

6. LORD ULLIN'S DAUGHTER

This is another ballad, a story in verse by the man who wrote Ye Massness of England. It is a storying tale of love, wind, storm and revence

A CHIEFTAIN to the Highlands bound Cries "Boatman, do not tarry, And I'll give thee a silver pound To row us o'er the ferry!"

"Now who be ye would cross Lochgyle, This dark and stormy water?"

"Oh I'm the chief of Ulva's isle, And this, Lord Ullin's daughter.

"And fast before her father's men Three days we've fled together, For should he find us in the glen, My blood would stain the heather.

"His horsemen hard behind us ride— Should they our steps discover. Then who will cheer my bonny bride When they have slain her lover?"

Out spoke the hardy Highland wight, "I'll go, my chief, I'm ready:
It is not for your silver bright,
But for your winsome lady:—

"And by my word! the bonny bird In danger shall not tarry; So though the wayes are raging white) I'll row you o'er the ferry."

By this the storm grew loud apace, The water-wraith was shricking: And in the scowl of heaven each face Grew dark as they were speaking. But still as wilder blew the wind And as the night grew drearer, Adown the glen rode arméd men, Their trampling sounded nearer.

"O haste thee, haste I" the lady cries,
"Though tempests round us gather;
I'll meet the raging of the skies,
But not an angry father."

The boat has left a stormy land, A stormy sea before her.— When, O I too strong for human hand The tempest gathered o'er her.

And still they row'd amidst the roar Of waters fast prevailing: Lord Ullin reach'd that fatal shore,—

His wrath was changed to waiting.

For, sore dismay'd, through storm and shade
His child he did discover:

One lovely hand she stretch'd for aid,

And one was round her lover.

"Come back I come back I" he cried in grief,
"Across this stormy water:
And I'll forgive your Highland chief,
My daughter I—O my daughter I"

Twas vain: the loud waves lash'd the shore, Return or aid preventing: The waters wild went o'er his child, And he was left lamenting.

THOMAS CAMPBELL

Questions.

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(5) The Sands of Dee, (c) And shall Trelawny die?

2. What adjective could you find to describe this poem? How does a story poem of action like this differ from a poem like The Dagodils (p. 48)?

3. Which lines of the poem print the scene indelibly on the eve?

7. THE DESTRUCTION OF SENNACHERIB

This is a fine stirring version of an old Bible story. Lord Byron was greater even than Sir Walter Scott at telling a story in verse. Later on we shall read his stancas which describe the eve of the Blattle of Waterloo and the battle itself. We can then make some comparison of the two porms.

1

The Assyrian came down like the wolf on the fold, And his cohorfs were gleaning in purple and gold; And the sheen of their spears was like stars on the sea.

When the blue wave rolls nightly on deep Galilee.

Like the leaves of the forest when Summer is green.

That host with their binners at sunset were seen.

Like the leaves of the forest when Autumn hath
thown.

That host on the morrow lay wither'd and strown.

Ш

For the Angel of Death spread his wings on the blast, And breathed in the face of the foc as he pass'd;

And the eyes of the sleepers wax'd deadly and chill. And their hearts but once heaved, and for ever grew still !

IV

And there lay the steed with his nostril all wide, But through it there roll'd not the breath of his tride:

And the form of his gasping lay white on the turf, And cold as the spray of the rock-beating ruf. v

And there lay the rider distorted and pale, With the dew on his brow, and the rust on his mail:

And the tents were all silent, the banners alone, The lances unlifted, the trumpet unblown.

VI

And the widows of Ashur are loud in their wail, And the idols are broke in the Temple of Ball; And the might of the Gentile, unsmote by the word, Hath melted like snow in the glance of the Lord! CORD BYSON.

Overtions.

- 2. Find in the Old Testament the story on which this poem is based.
 2. In the second stanza there are two "likenesses,"
- Do they seem vivid to you? Could you think of better ones?
 - 3. By what little pictures does the poet give you the ldra of the destruction of Sennacherib!
 - idea of the destruction of Sennacherib?

 4. What do you notice about the rhythm of this poem?
 (Read the introduction.)

8. KEITH OF RAVELSTON

All the sadness and the incompleteness of the ballad are illustrated in this poem. In particular the refrain gives the balf-fold tale an atmosphere of mournfulness and mystery.

> The murmur of the mourning ghost That keeps the shadowy kine, "Oh, Keith of Ravelston, The sorrows of the line!"

Ravelston, Ravelston,

The merry path that leads

Down the golden morning hill,

And thro' the silver meads:

Ravelston, Ravelston,

The stile beneath the tree.

The maid that kept her mother's kine,
The song that sang she !

She sang her song, she kept her kine, She sat beneath the thorn,

When Andrew Keith of Ravelston Rode thro' the Monday morn.

His henchmen sing, his hawk-bells ring, His belted fewels shine !

Oh, Keith of Ravelston, The sorrows of thy line I

Year alter year, where Andrew came, Comes evening down the glade,

And still there sits a moonshine ghost Where sat the sunshine maid.

Her misty hair is faint and fair, She keeps the shadowy kine; Oh, Keith of Ravviston, The sorrows of thy Lne ! I lay my hand upon the stile, The stile is lone and cold; The burnle that goes babbling by Says naught that can be told.

Yet, stranger I here, from year to year, She keeps her shadowy kine;

Oh, Keith of Ravelston, The sorrows of thy line I

Step out three steps, where Andrew stood— Why blanch thy cheeks for fear? The ancient stile is not alone, Tis not the burn I hear!

She makes her immemorial moan, She keeps her shadowy kine; Oh, Keith of Ravelston,

The sorrows of thy line | Synamy Donell

Ouestions.

r. Who was (a) Keith of Ravelston; (b) the maid? Can you reconstruct the story from the poem?
2. What is the refrain of the poem? Why does it

make the poem effective?

3. Is there any reason for the mention of the sile and the burn in the poem?



Her timbers yet are sound, And she may float again, Full charg'd with England's thunder, And plough the distant main;

But Kempenfelt is gone,
His victories are o'er;
And he and his eight hundred
Must plough the wave no more.

William Cowper.

Ouestions.

 Rewrite this poem in prose as simply and clearly as you can.

 Which of the three following is the centre or real subject of this poem?—The Royal George; Kempenicit; The eight hundred men.

3. Do you prefer this poem to the poem of Tennyson's in which six hundred men "rode into the valley of Death"? Give a reason with your answer.



A FIRST BOOK

2. This poem is called a song. Do you think it cou

Do you agree with this statement?

88

be set to music?

 Which stanza in this poem do you like leas What is your reason for thinking it less attractive the the others? 4. "The seasons have got mixed up in this poem



...

The worts, the purslair
Of watercress,
Which of Thy kindness And my content
Makes those, and my bel
To be more sweet.

All this, and better, dost :
Me for this end:
That I should render for:
A thankful heart,
Which, fired with incense, !

Which, fired with incense, I As wholly Thine: But the acceptance—that I.

O Lord, by Thee.

Questions.

 Read the poem carefully, and his everyday life Herrick describes in 2.
 What do you mean when 50% "quaint"? What quaint phrases (1) you find in this poem?

you find in this poem?

3. Write a list of ten things that a every day. Try to write a little about.

paragraph.

4. From this poem and those printed
when?

4. From this poem and those printed
been?

12. A SEA SONG

Storm and wind sing through this rollicking song of the days of England's "Hearts of Oak" The very rhythm of the poem rocks like the storm-tossed ship.

> A wer sheet and a flowing sea, A wind that follows fast

And fills the white and rustling sail
And bends the gallant mast;
And hends the gallant mast, my boys,

While like the eagle free
Away the good ship flies, and leaves

Away the good ship flies, and leav Old England on the lee.

O for a soft and gentle wind l
I heard a fair one cry;
But give to me the snoring breeze
And white waves heaving high;
And white waves heaving high, my lads,
The good ship tight and free—

The world of waters is our home,
And merry men are we.

There's tempest in yon horned moon, And lightning in yon cloud; But hark the music, mariners! The wind is piping loud;

The wind is piping loud, my boys, The lightning flashes free— While the hollow oak our palace is, Our heritage the sea,

ALLAN CUNNINGHAM.

Questions.

r. What kind of man is singing this song? When did he live, do you think?

A FIRST BOOK 42

2. What does the poet mean by "a wind that follows fast"; "snoring breeze"; "yon horned moon"; "the hollow oak"; "the wind is piping ")

3. Do you know of any description in verse or prose

of a rough sea?

13. HUNTING SONG

There is a sound in this song like the hunter's horn, that wakes the early morning echoes. It reminds us of another hunter—John Peel—who would " awaken the dead " as he rode " in his coat so gay."

WAKEN, Iords and ladies gay !
On the mountain dawns the day;
All the jolly chase is here
With hawk and horse and hunting spear;
Hounds are in their couples yelling,
Hawks are whistling, horns are knelling,
Merrily merrily mingle they,
"Waken, Lords and laddes gay !"

Waken, lords and ladies gay! The mist has left the mountain grey, Springlets In the dawn are steaming, Diamonds on the brake are gleaming; And foresters have busy been To track the buck in thicket green; Now we come to chant our lay.
"Waken, lords and ladies gay!"

Waken, lords and ladies gay I
To the greenwood haste away;
We can show you where he hes,
Fleet of foot and tall of size;
We can show the marks he made
When 'gainst the oak his antlers fray'd;
You shall see him brought to bay;
"Waken, lords and ladies gay I"

Louder, louder chant the lay, Waken, lords and ladies gay! [Tell them youth and mirth and glee Run a course as well as we:

A FIRST BOOK

44 Time, stern huntsman! who can balk, Stanch as hound and fleet as hawk;

Think of this, and rise with day, Gentle lords and ladies gay ! SIR WALTER SCOT

this?

Questions. I. How would you try to read this poem aloud?

Trow women you try to read this poem around
 What in this poem makes you feel all the time
it is a song of the early morning?

3. There are many songs and poems and tal English about hunting. Could you give a reaso

14. THREE MEN OF GOTHAM

Anold nursery rhyme is the "text" of this poem, which is really a merry drinking song.

SEAMEN three! What men be ye? Gotham's three wise men we be.

Whither in your bowl so free?

To rake the moon from out the sea.

The bowl goes trim. The moon doth shine.

And our ballast is old wine.

And your ballast is old wine.

Who art thou, so fast adrift?
I am he they call Old Care.
Here on board we will thee lift.
No: I may not enter there.
Wherefore so? 'Tis Jove's decree.

In a bowl Care may not be.

In a bowl Care may not be.

Fear ye not the waves that roll?
No: in channed bowl we swim.

What the charm that floats the bowl?
Water may not pass the brim.

The bowl goes trim. The moon doth shine. And our ballast is old wine. And your ballast is old wine.

THOMAS LOVE PEACOCK.

Questions.

 Write the nursery rhyme on which this poem is founded. With it write down three of the best nursery rhymes you know.



15. TWO POEMS OF WORDSWORTH

Wordsworth has told us in these poems of two different experences he had when he was out walking. One day, in harvest time, he saw a woman reaping in a field, and heard her singus. Her gong remissed with, him and reminded him "of old mbhappy facoll things." But another day he saw the daffolds dancing and tossing in the winds of March; and they filled him with their own happiness and else.

(i) THE REAPER

Benoto her, single in the field, Yon solitary Highland Laza! Reaping and singing by herself; Stop here, or gently pass! Alone she cuts and binds the grain, And sings a melancholy strain; O listen! for the vale profound Is overflowing with the sound.

No nightingale did ever chant More welcome notes to weary bands Of travellers in some shady haunt,

Among Arabian sands:
A voice so thrilling ne'er was heard
In spring-time from the cuckoo-bird,
Breaking the silence of the seas
Among the farthest Hebrides.

Will no one tell me what she sings? Perhaps the plaintive numbers flow For old, unhappy, far-off things, And battles four are:

Or is it some more humble lay,
Familiar matter of to-day?
Some natural sorrow, loss, or pain,
That has been, and may be again?

And then my heart with pleasure fills, And dances with the daffodils. WILLIAM WORDSWORTH.

Questions.

I. Read the poem called To Daffolds on p. 50. How does it differ from this one? Which do you think the better poem? 2. Write down some thoughts of your own on seeing

(i) a bank of violets, (ii) bluebells in a wood, (iii) a bush of wild roses. 3. Can you suggest a subject for the reaper's song?

Do you know of some sad song she might have been singing? 4. Which do you consider to be the four best lines of

The Reaper? State your reasons for choosing them.
5. Why does the poet speak of a nightingale among Arabian sands, and a cuckoo in the far-off Hebrides?

6. What word occurs in each stanza of The Daffodils? Can you suggest a reason for the repetition?

White et the flowe, the mailor sing. As if betwee could have no ending! As if betwee so the forward single at the work, As if o et the side hereined, I between protections and tail. And, as I connect up the hill. He may be implement been proceeding the side of the side

(a) THE DAFFORMS

I wateran binely as a cloud.
This floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I sure a crowd,
A host, of golden daffolds,
A bost, of golden daffolds,
I bettering and dereng in the breeze,

Continuous as the stars that shine And twinkle on the milky way. They stretched in never-ending line Along the margin of a bay. Ten thousand saw I at a plane

Ten thousard saw I at a ringe.
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.
The waves beside them danced, but they

Out-did the sparkling waves in glee;
A Poet could not but be gay
In such a jocund company!
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought;

For oft, when on my couch I lie In vacant or in pensive mood, They flash upon that inward eye Which is the bliss of solitude: And then my heart with pleasure fills, And dances with the daffodils.

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH.

Questions.

- I. Read the poem called To Daffodils on p. 50. How does it differ from this one? Which do you think the better poem?
- Write down some thoughts of your own on seeing (i) a bank of violets, (ii) bluebells in a wood, (iii) a bush of wild roses.
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- Arabian sands, and a cuckoo in the lar-off Hebrides?

 6. What word occurs in each stanza of The Daffodils?

 Can you suggest a reason for the repetition?

16. TO DAFFODILS

Wordsworth saw the daffolds, and they made him feel happy and glad (p. 48). But Robert Herrick thought only of their short stay, which reminded him of the fleeting life of men and women, and made him grieve that the daffolds "basted away 50 2000."

FAIR Daffodils, we weep to see
You haste away so soon:
As yet the early-rising Sun
Has not attain'd his noon,
Stay, stay,

Until the hasting day Has run

But to the even-song; And, having pray'd together, we Will go with you along.

We have short time to stay, as you, We have as short a Spring; As quick a growth to meet decay

As you, or any thing.

As your hours do, and dry

Like to the Summer's rain;

Or as the pearls of morning's dew, Ne'er to be found again, ROBERT HERRICK.

Ouestions.

z. Is there anything in this poem which would tell you that its author was a clergyman? When do you think he saw the definduls?

2. Imagine and write down the answer of the dafficilia.

17. TO MEADOWS

This is another poem by the poet who wrote To Daffodds
It is interesting to see that the meadows with their lost and
faded flowers fill him with the same thoughts as the daffodds
that pass to soon.

YE have been firsh and green, Ye have been fill'd with flowers, And ye the walks have been Where maids have spent their hours.

Ye have beheld bow they
With wicker arks did come
To kiss and bear away
The richer cowslips home,

You've heard them sweetly sing, And seen them in a round: Each virgin, like a Spring, With honeysuckles crown'd,

But now we see none here Whose silvery feet did tread, And with dishevelled hair Adorn'd this smoother mead.

Like unthrifts, having spent
Your stock, and needy grown,
You're left here to lament
Your poor estates, alone.
ROBERT HERRICE

Ouestions.

1. At what time of the year do you suppose this poem was written? Give a reason for your answer.

THE DOUBLE 2. Do you think you could tell from reading this poem

and To Daffodils that Herrick was a country poet?

3. What is meant by "wicker arks"; "in a round"; "dishevelled hair"? 4. Try to put into a prose paragraph of your own the meaning of the last two stances.

TR TWO POEMS OF BROWNING

Browning has two distinct thoughts of England. Away in Italy, he remembers the sweetness and homelaness of her April; in the Mediterranean, near the symbols of her power, Gibraitar and Trafalgar, he thinks with pride of her glory among the nations.

(i) HOME THOUGHTS FROM ABROAD

OH, to he in England
Now that April's there,
And whoever wakes in England
Sees, some morning, unaware,

That the forest boughs and the brushwood sheaf Round the elm-tree bole are in tiny leaf, the While the chaffinch sings on the orchard hough the England—now !

And after April, when May follows, And the whitethroat builds, and all the swallows I Hark, where my hiossom'd pear-tree in the hedge Leans to the field and scatters on the clover Blossoms and dewdrops—at the hent sortay's adva—

Blossoms and dewdrops—at the hent spray's edge— That's the wise thrush; he sings each song twice over,

Lest you should think he never could recapture. The first fine careless rapture! And though the fields look rough with hoary dew, All will be gay when noontide wakes anew The buttercups, the little children's dower

-Far brighter than this gaudy melon-flower !
ROBERT BROWNING.

Questions.

z. Are the various things that Browning mentions in this poem really true? Have you ever seen them in England? Does the thrush really sing his song twice over? 2. What does the last line mean? (Remember that Browning was in Italy when he wrote the poem.)

(ii) HOME THOUGHTS FROM THE SEA

Nonly, nobly Cape Saint Vincent to the North-west died away;

Sunset ran, one glorious blood-red, reeking into Cadiz Bay;

Bluish 'mid the burning water, full in face Trafalgar lay;
In the dummest North-east distance dawn'd Gibraltar

grand and gray;
"Here and hore did England help may how girl

"Here and here did England help me; how can I help England?"—say,

Whoso turns as I, this evening, turn to God to praise and pray,
While Jove's planet rises yonder, silent over Africa.
ROBERT BROWNING.

Ouestions.

I. What words or phrases in this poem strike you as being particularly vivid or picturesque?

2. Why does Browning mention particularly Cape St. Vincent, Cadiz Bay, Trafalgar, and Gibraltar in this poem?

3. How would you pronounce the word Africa in the last line?

19. IF I HAD BUT TWO LITTLE WINGS

On pp. 81, 82 there are two passages from The Antural Marsner, a very famous poem by the man who words these three simple stanzas. Coleridge was a poet full of imagination and of such dream as he describes here. He tells us that he actually dreamt the words of one of his best poems, Kubla Lkain.

If I had but two little wings, And were a little feathery bird, To you I'd fly, my dear l

But thoughts like these are idle things, And I stay here.

But in my sleep to you I fly:
I'm always with you in my sleep;
The world is all one's own.

But then one wakes, and where am 1?
All, all alone.

Sleep stays not, though a monarch hids;
So I love to wake ere break of day:
For though my sleep be gone,
Yet, while 'tis dark, one shuts one's lids,
And still dreams on.

SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE,

Ouestions.

"I'm always with you in my sleep; The world is all one's own."

т.

What does the poet mean by these two lines? Why is he lonely when he wakes?

lonely when he wakes?

2. Notice that all the words and phrases in this poem are very simple. Could you improve the poem by altering any one of them? Do you think simple words and language are the best for poetry?

20, TWO POEMS OF THE POET LAURE

Dr. Bridges is the Poet Laureate to-day, and has many deep and learned poems. But in the two here he has written simply and tenderly for us understand.

(i) GAY ROBIN IS SEEN NO MOR

GAY Robin is seen no more : He is gone with the snow. For winter is o'er And Robin will go. In need he was fed, and now he is fled Away to his secret nest. No more will he stand Begging for crumbs. No longer he comes Beseeching our hand And showing his breast At window and door :-Gay Robin is seen no more.

Blithe Robin is heard no more : He gave us his song When summer was o'er And winter was long . He sang for his bread and now he is Away to his secret nest. And there in the green Early and late Alone to his mate He pipeth unseen And swelleth his breast; For us it is o'er :-Blathe Robin is heard no more. ROBERT F

68 A ROBIN

FLAKE-throated robin on the topmost bough
Of the leafless oak, what singest thou?
Hark 1 he telleth how—

"Spring is coming now; Spring is coming now.

"Now ruddy are the elm-tops against the blue sky.
The pale larch donneth her jewelry,
Red fir and black fir sigh.

And I am lamenting the year gone by.

"The bithes where I nested are all cut down.
They are felling the tall trees one by one.
And my mate is dead and gone.

In the winter she died and left me lone.

"She lay in the thicket where I fear to go;

For when the March-winds after the snow The leaves away did blow,

She was not there, and my heart is woe :
"And sad is my song, when I begin to sing.

As I sit in the sunshine this merry spring:
Like a withered leaf I cling
To the white oak-bough, while the wood doth ring

"Spring is coming now, the sun again is gay; Lach day like a last Spring's happy day," - -Thus sang he; then from his spray

He saw me Intening and flew away.
ROBERT BEIDGES.

Questions.

5. Give another title to each of these poems, s Which is the sadder of those two poems? While of all the bands day you think would sing the happen long? 5 It would be interesting to make a collection of he poems. Typic with this goe, and add to it are re-

A FIRST BOOK

poems you read about a thrush, anightingale, a blackbird a cuckoo, a wren. 4. Could you find better words for those printed in italic type?—

58

Flame-throated tobin. Ruddy are the elm-tops. The pale larch. The white oak bough.

5. What do you notice about the thymes in Gay Robin is seen no more?

.50

21. THREE POEMS OF BLAKE

William Blake was a painter and mystic who lived in London over a hundred years ago. This beautiful poem is based on the little words, "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb . . . and the young bon and the fathing together; and a little child shall lead them " Illike's Interest in the simple things of Nature is illustrated here and in the next two poems. He linked night-time, the hon, the lamb, the fearful tieer with their centle set wondruus Creator.

@ NIGHT

THE sun descending in the west, The evening star does shine: The birds are silent in their nest. And I must seek for mine. The moon, like a flower,

In heaven's high tower, With silent delight Sits and smiles on the night,

Farewell, green fields and happy groves,

Where flocks have took delight. Where lambs have nibbled, silent moves

The feet of angels brutht, Unseen they pour lacsung,

And for without crasser. On each bull and Id woom, And each shereng bosom.

They I wik in every thoughtless nest, Where bards are cover'd warra, They start carried every least,

To keep them all from Larra If they we any weeping That should have been sleeping,

They pour sleep on their head, And all down by their bed

When wolves and tigers howl for prey, They pitying stand and weep; Seeking to drive their thirst away. And keep them from the sheep. But if they rush dreadful. The angels, most heedful, Receive each mild spirit.

New worlds to inherit.

And there the lion's ruddy eyes Shall flow with tears of gold, And pitying the tender cries, And walking round the fold, Saying " Wrath, by his meekness, And, by his health, sickness Is driven away From our immortal day.

"And now beside thee, bleating lamb, I can lie down and sleep; Or think on Him who bore thy name,

Graze after thee and weep, For, wash'd in life's river. My bright mane for ever Shall shine like the gold

As I guard o'er the fold." WILLIAM BLAKE.

Questions.

z. Why is this poem called Night? 2. What is the meaning of the following expressions ?-"the moon, like a flower"; "every thoughless nest"; "they four sleep on their head"; "the lion's rully Do these phrases strike you as particularly

3. What is there noticeable about the rhythm of this

poem?

(ii) THE LAMB

LITTLE Lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?
Gave thee life, and bid thee feed,
If y the atream and o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing, woofly, bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice?
Little Lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?

Little Lamb, I'll tell thee, Little Lamb, I'll tell thee: He is called by thy name, For He calls Himself a Lamb

For He calls Himself a Lamb.
He is meek, and He is mild;
He became a lutle child.
I a child, and thou a lamb,
We are called by His name.
Little Lamb, God bless thee!

Little Lamb, God bless thee! WILLIAM BLAKE.

....

Questions.

1. Why does this poom remind you particularly of Night? Which poom do you prefet?

a. What adjective would you apply to the matter and style of this porm? It is one of a number of poems which like called Songs of Innerence. Could you suggest why little gave his book that title?

(面) THE TIGER

Trank 1 Typer I burning bright In the forests of the night. What immortal hand or eye Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

In what distant deeps or skies Burnt the fire of thine eyes? On what wings dare he aspire? What the hand dare seize the fire?

And what shoulder, and what art Could twist the sinews of thy heart? And, when thy heart began to beat, What dread hand forged thy dread feet?

What the hammer? what the chain? In what furnace was thy brain? What the anvil? what dread grasp Dare its deadly terrors clasp?

When the stars threw down their spears, And water'd heaven with their tears, Old He smile His work to see? Did He who made the Lamb make thee?

Tiger! Tiger! burning bright In the forests of the night, What immortal hand or eye Dare frame thy fearful symmetry?

WILLIAM BLAKE.

Questions.

1. Does this poem make you feel afraid of the tiger?

What words in it make the tiger seem awful?

 Why does the poet say—(a) "burning bright in the forests of the night"; (b) "thy fearful symmetry"?
 Describe in prose or in verse the following animals: the donkey; the cat; the hon.

22. THE FAIRIES

This is a delicate little song of a man who had a whirnsical terest in the fairy world. He knew just where to fo i the Los, what they were like, and what they had for supper lore the dawn made them hide away.

Ur the airy mountain,
Down the rushy glen,
We daren't go a-bunting
For fear of little men;
Wee folk, good folk,
Trooping all together;
Green jacket, red cap,
And white own's feather!

Down along the rocky shore Some make their home. They his on crispy pancales Of yellow tide foam; Some in the reeds Of the black mountain-lake. With freet for their watch-dogs. All right awake.

High on the Lift top
The old King stat;
He is now so old and gray
He is now so old and gray
He's nigh bot has wits
With a bridge of white mint
Columb kill be traces,
On his stately yearneys
From Niewiczegu to Rower;
Or our gray with printer
To top with the Chern
Of the gray Northern Lights.

In a section (PA), the goal of the content of the c

to the building to be the second to the second will be the second to the

By his way as full ass.
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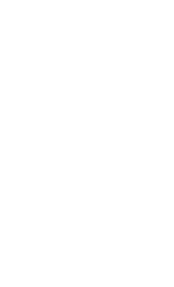
And what a set a feather? We denote Andly attitude

Charles 44.

s White Sind of country subs to prefer the this point. What would you separate that the field of 4. What is a long out. There as a legand in this from

65

OF LYRICAL POETRY e-tell it in your own words. What fairy legends do you now ? 3. What (a) flowers, (b) animals or insects, are par-cularly connected with elves and fairles? Why? 4. What would you say about the skythm of this oem? (Read the first part of the introduction.)



24. TWO MODERN POEMS

These two poems were written by a poet who is bying today. They are both full of delicate fancy. In the first one the root eres and marvels at the miracle of nature that trines the hyacinth out of the earth, and in the other he tells us whimsically about the datry of his dreams.

(In Tehruary)

6) HYACINTHUS

In Autumn's dearth Of warmth and muth. Take of kind earth The fill of bowl. And in it lay I air bulos, and say.

" To this mere clay Be living soul

And now, beholf, I re ereen an I cold Low Los boom of Abroad entice. Pinks, whites and blues Do fill your cruse With scents and Luca Of Paradese.

In close knot tworts CH wasen curls Lach Lead untilta Pelevri, anur. Becute 1 I dad 1 In metch the lat (Meditwholes) Atamos beart. Cows of my raising, White, red, and roan, I'd have a grazing In fields of my own; Mulkers amazing. Morning and night,

Cows of my raising, Roan, red, and white.

I'd give the fairy Cream, curd, and whey. Best of my dairy Uresh every day t These shouldn't vary Neath my door beam; I'd rive the fairy Whey, curd, and cream.

PATRICK R. CHALMERS

Owestions. 2. What words in the first poem give a post picture of the typeinth? I and some weeds of your ewn that you rould use to describe to) a dallia, (!) a blotbell, (r) a 1.17.

a Who was Aradial The you know the harm's of Hyacinthus? What other firmer legends do you know? 3 How would you describe the metre of the fast

porm? Do you think it suits the subject? 4 What is the meaning of the fourth stanza of the first

ports ? 5. What do you notice about the second and last lines

of cach stanza in the several poers? 6. There the second poem pres 3 on a post parties of the daur! Whahatania appeals to you must? How does the poem rive you an alea of the tlearness of the

dain t " Who is the fairy in the second pare? Wil does

the fairs eneme to to ut at all ?



On Sundays I take my rest;
Church-going bells begin
Their low, melodrous din;
ITONINY arms on thy Decase.
And all is peace within.
HERRY WARSWORTH LONGFELLOW.

Ourstrons.

 Try to describe in simple fanguare of your own (a) the windmill at work, (b) the windmill at rest What two phrases best make these descriptions in the poem?

 Why does a windmill always seem mysterious and romantic? Why does the poet call the windmill a grant?

3 Imagine that the miller talks to the windmill What would be say? 4. Have you ever read a story of a man's fight with a

4. Have you ever read a story of a man's fight with a winimil? If you have, tell the story in your own words

5. The post Longlellow was an American What famous swem dil he write? How could you tell that the poem peinted here was written by an American?

es, two poems from punce

The Pinnsam was a long reptile, bring at the writeginning of the world. Scientists have found to have or skeletons of such beasts, and we can go uses her with Natural History Museum, as the children do in the port.

(i) THE DINOSAUR

LIKE some great bird with lifted beak.
The gaunt old dragon stands;
His empty eye-holes seem to sack.
Prey for his empty hands;
Something there is in him.
Both humorous and grim.

Strange that beneath his hollow bress
Were eyes that once beheld
The warm pools and the dusky boughs
Of vague unfathomed eld,

And saw the dawn dim pearled Above a manless world.

He saw the forests hide the sun.
The waters fume and shrink.
And strange new creatures, one by one
Crawl to the cory brink;
He felt the fierce hot rain

He felt the fierce nor rain that smote the fern-slamed plain.

Now, peering o'er the little crowd That clusters at Lis feet. It does not hear its wonder load. Its toughter shrill and sweet, but herd the merry sound Of small boots elattering road.

Above the wondering tabes to towers.

A beast remote and odd.

While they, like pink and golden flowers, About him sway and nod Before they patter past Half-gleciul, half-agiast. Donorny Margaret Stuarr.

. ..

Questions.

r, In what kind of a world did the Dinosaur live? How long ago?

Imagine that the Dinosaur spoke to the children What would he say?
 What do you understand by "vague unfathomed

eld"? Why is the dawn dim-pearled? Explain the lines:

"He felt the fierce hot rain
That smote the fern-sharged plain,"

(ii) THE POTTER

In the olden days men of the various trades or crafts would cry out their wares in little songs, with quaint words and music. A modern writer imagines for us in this poem the song of the potter.

DAME, what can I make for you, What would you have to-day? Platter, cruse or pitcher new, Or a trefoil cup or two Wrought of liner clay—Wrought with knops and circles, Scallops, masks and sprays, Covered over smooth and thick

With the good green glaze?

If the green glaze please you not, Then you shall have the brown; I can make a nut-brown pot, It will not crack if it grow hot, Nor if it tumble down!

I can mould and fashion Beauty out of mud As it folds around my wheel

Like a lily-bud.

If old men's fingers wag for cold

When winter winds blow keen. From the rough clay I can mould

A plaited cage for them to hold With embers red between:

Sweet water from the conduit My yellow pitchers catch,

And in them comes the winking ale From the buttery-hatch.

Fear not, ye babes, to come to me; I love to hear your mirth;

Pretty ones, draw near and see, I have cocks and cows for ye

Scarce a finger's girth; I have little coffers

Wherein to keep your groats, Some like helmets, some like towers,

Some like pigeon-cotes. DOROTHY MARGARET STUART,

Questions.

1. Try to make a picture of some of the things the potter says he can make. What would you like him to make for you?

" I can mould and fashion Beauty out of mud."

What does this mean? Turn to the poem on p. 72; is that also about beauty out of mud?

3. Try to make up a verse for (a) the tinker, (b) the baker, (c) the carpenter, (d) the watchmaker, to sing. 4. Where in the Bible can you read about a potter?

Find and learn the passage.

2.

27. BLOW, BLOW, THOU WINTER WIND

The play As You Like It, in which this song is sung, is a play of hie in the forest, where a man's friends are the trees, and the sky, and the wind. Shakespeare thinks of man's ingratitude as a worse thing than the bitterest weather.

Drow, blow, thou winter wind,
Thou art not so unkind
As man's ingratitude;
Thy tooth is not so keen

Because thou art not seen,
Although thy breath be rude.
Heigh ho! sing heigh ho! unto the green holly:

Most friendship is feigning, most loving mere folly.

Then, heigh ho! the holly!

This life is most jolly.

Freeze, freeze, thou bitter sky, That dost not late so nigh As benefits forgot

As benefits forgot Though thou the waters warp, Thy sting is not so sharp

As friend remember'd not.

Heigh ho I sing heigh ho I unto the green holly:
Most friendship is feigning, roost Loving mere folly

friendship is feigniss, riost loving mere folly.
Then, heigh ho I the holly I
This life is most folly.

WILLIAM SHARESPEARE,

Caralieres.

t. What is the chorus of this soup? What is its purpose?

I can mould and fashion Beauty out of mud As it folds around my wheel Like a lily-bud.

If old men's fingers wag for cold When winter winds blow keen. From the rough clay I can mould A plaited cage for them to hold With embers red between:

Sweet water from the conduit My yellow pitchers catch,

And in them comes the winking ale From the buttery-hatch.

Fear not, ye babes, to come to me; I love to hear your muth; Pretty ones, draw near and see, I have cocks and cows for ye Scarce a finger's girth:

I have little coffers Wherein to keep your groats, Some like helmets, some like towers,

Some like pigeon-cotes. DOROTHY MARGARET STUART

Ouestions.

t. Try to make a picture of some of the things the potter says he can make. What would you like him to mike life you?

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3 Try to make up a versa for (a) the tinker, (b) the baker, (c) the carrenter, (d) the watchmaker, to sire 4 Where in the Patie can you rest about a potter? Find and learn the pumice.

2.

28. WHEN ICICLES HANG BY THE WALL

Shakespeare often remembered Stratford-on-Avon, the home of his boy bood, when he was writing plays in London. This little song from Lee's Labour's Losi pecture's a coll morning in the village, as Shakespeare thought of it when a boy.

> When icicles hang by the wall, And Dick the shepherd blows his nail, And Tom bears logs into the hall,

And nom pears sogs into the hall,
And milk comes frozen home in pail,
When blood is supped, and ways be foul,
Then nightly sings the staring owl,

To-whit!

While greasy Joan doth keel the pot.

When all aloud the wind doth blow, And coughing drowns the parson's saw, and birds as throoting in the snow.

And Marian's note looks red and raw, when roasted crabs have in the book. Then nightly sings the staring owk.

, lowhit!

To who 1-a merry note, While greasy Joan doth keel the pot. While strays Joan Shakesrt ver.

Ourstons.

I Have you ever noticed these sights and sounds on a winter day in the country? Why does winter in town did from sinter in the country?

A Whom do Dak and Zom. Martin and John

a. Whom do Dick and Torn, Haran and Joan represent?

3 Do you think the orders to this fittle some is

effective? What is the meaning of its last Line?

29. A SEA DIRGE

This is a beautiful little song sung by the spirit Ariel in The Tempset. Ared means that the movement of the sea would change even a drowned mus into "something rich and strange"

FULL fathorn five thy father lies;

Of his bones are coral mule:

Those are rearly that were his eyes :

Nothing of him that doth fide But doth suffer a sea-change Into something tich and strange. Sea-nymphs hourly ring his knell! Hark! now I hear them.—

k I now I hear them,—
Ding, dong, bell,
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE.

Curdions.

- What benefield things do you know of that are mutiled and fishlened by the movement of the ser?
 What is a drigh? What kind of music would you set to this poem? If we does the poem sound as you result?
- 3 What were the sex nympha? Do you know any levends concerning the sex?



31. BLOW, BUGLE, BLOW

This is generally called "The Bogle Song." Its language is very beautiful and musical; and above all, seems in give the effect of the echo of a bugle sounding over the hills. A visit to the Lakes of Killarney suggested the poem to Tennyson.

The splendour falls on castle walls
And snowy summits old in story:
The long light shakes across the lakes,
And the wild cateract leaps in glory.

Blow, bugle, blow, set the wild echoes flying, Blow, bugle; answer, echoes, dying, dying, dying.

O hark, O hear I how thin and clear, And thinner, clearer, farther going! O sweet and far from cliff and scar The horns of Elfland faintly blowing! ow. Let us hear the surple glang replying:

Blow, let us hear the purple glens replying: Blow, bugle; answer, echoes, dying, dying, dying.

O love, they die in yon rich sky. They faint on hill or field or river: Our echoes roll from soul to soul, And grow for ever and for ever.

Blow, bugle, blow, set the wild echoes flying, And answer, echoes, answer, dying, dying, dying. LORD TENNYSON.

Questions.

- 1. How does the poet get the effect of the echo?
 2. What particular beauty can you trace in the following lines?—
 - (a) "The long light shakes across the lakes."
 (b) "And thinner, clearer, farther going."
 (c) "The horns of Elfand laintly blowing."
 - 3. What do you notice about the rhymes in this poem?

32. FROM THE ANCIENT MARINER

These two passages give us a fine idea of the imagination of the poet Coleridge, and of the entirely beauty of his language. In the first we have the loveliness of the sea under the mone—a thing to be seen; and in the second what Shakeppeare calls the "concord of sweet sounds." The second passage is perhaps the most musical poetry in the whole of English heterature.

(i) THE WATER-SNAKES BY MOONLIGHT

The moving moon went up the sky And nowhere did abide;

Softly she was going up.

And a star or two beside—

And a star or two beside— Her beams bemock'd the sultry main.

Like April hoar-frost spread; But where the ship's huge shadow lay, The charmed water burnt alway

The charmed water burnt alway
A still and awful red.

Beyond the shadow of the ship, I watch'd the water-snakes: They moved in tracks of shining white, And when they rear'd, the ellish light Fell off in hoary flakes.

Within the shadow of the ship I watch'd their rich attire: Blue, glossy green, and velvet black, They coil'd and swam; and every track Was a flash of golden fire.

O hoppy living things I no tongue Their beauty might declare: A spring of love gush'd from my heart. And I bless'd them unaware:
Sure my kind saint took pity on me,
And I bless'd them unaware.
SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERD

(ii) SWEET SOUNDS

Sometimes a-dropping from the sky I heard the skylark sing; Sometimes all little birds that are, How they seem'd to fill the sea and air With their sweet jargoning!

And now 'twas like all instruments, Now like a lonely flute; And now it is an angel's song, That makes the Heavens be mute. It ceased; yet still the sails made on A pleasant noise till noon, A noise like of a hidden brook In the lealy month of June,

That to the sleeping woods all night Singeth a quiet tune. SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE.

Ouestions.

I. Try to make a picture of the scene described in the first passage.

2. The Ancient Mariner all alone on a ship amongs

2. The Ancient Mariner, all alone on a ship among dead men, is speaking in the first passage. Why doe he speak as he does of the water-snakes?
3. Choose three words from the first passage that give

you in themselves good picture of the watersnape.

4. Why are the following words or phrase effective in the second passed—adopping from the sky jagroning; "a fonely flute"; the leafy month of June"; sleeping woods "; "a hidden brook."

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 Suppose the three stanzas of the second passage were set to music. What kind of music would suit them? What instruments would be used?

6. Describe for youself the noise a brook makes in summer. Would its mosic be different in winter? What other music do you know of in Nature?

33. TO AUTUMN

In the first stanza of this poem Keats pict as the time of harvest, of ripened fruit; in personales Autumn as the gleaner; and in the personales Autumn as the gleaner; and in the personales Autumn as the gleaner; and in the personal actions are the gleaner. Shows how Autumn's music is as sweet and be SEASON of mists and mellow fruitfulnes of Spring.

Close bosom-friend of the maturing

Conspiring with him how to load and b With fruit the vines that found the

To bend with apples the moss'd cottag And fill all fruit with ripeness to the To swell the gourd, and plump il With a sweet kernel; to set buddir

And still more, later flowers for the b Until they think warm days will ne For Summer has o'er brimm's

Who hath not seen thee oft amid the Sometimes whoever seeks abroad Ther sitting careless on a granary f Thy hair soft-lifted by the winner Or on a half reap d furrow sound Drowsed with the jume of popular spares the next swath an

And sometimes like a gleaner thou Steady thy Luten braid across a Or by a cil T fresh, with fatier

Thou watchest the list onzir Where are the wells of elin.

Think gat of them thou hist

While Larred cheeria Dona He w

ben in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn Among the river sallows, borne aloft

Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;

nd full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn; Hedge-crickets sing; and now with troble soft The redbreast whistles from a garden-croft.

And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.

Find and quote:

(4) two good "pictures"; (b) two passages that reveal colour;

(c) two good musical possages from the poem,

2. Does Keats think of Autumn as a season of sorrow r as a season of joy? Is there anything sad about this

Questions.

JOHN KEATS.

oem?

34. THE QUESTION

This is a poem of beautiful flowers. Shelley has sur-rounded many of the "hiles of the field," with his orasources many or the "muss of the held "with his manasserable picturesque fancy; and has ended with his manasserable

I DREAM'D that as I wander'd by the way Bare Winter suddenly was changed to Spring, And gentle odours led my steps astray,

Mix'd with a sound of waters murmuring

Along a shelving bank of turf, which lay Under a copse, and hardly dated to fling

Its green arms round the basom of the stream, But kiss'd it and then fied, as thou mightest in

There grew pied wind flowers and violets, Daisies, those pearl'd Arcturi of the earth,

The constellated flower that never sets; Faint oxlips: tender blue-bells, at whose birth The sod scarce heaved; and that tall flower that

Like a child, half in tenderness and mirth-

Its mother's face with heaven's collected tears, When the low wind, its playmate's voice, it hears.

And in the warm hedge grew lush egiantine, Green cow bind and the moonlight colour day And cherry-blossoms, and white cups, whose win Was the bright dew yet drain d not by the day And wild roses, and ivy serpentine
With its dark buds and leaves, wandering astr

And flowers azure, black, and streak d with gold, Fairer than any waken'd eyes behold.

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And nearer to the river's trembling edge There grew broad flag-flowers, purple pranked with

And starry river buds among the sedge, And floating water-lilies, broad and bright,

Which lit the oak that overhung the hedge With moonlight beams of their own watery light And bulrushes, and reeds of such deep green

As soothed the dazzled eve with sober sheen.

Methought that of these visionary flowers I made a nosegay, bound in such a way

That the same hues, which in their natural bowers

Were mingled or opposed, the like array Kept these imprison d children of the Hours Within my hand, -and then, elate and gay, I hasten'd to the spot whence I had come,

That I might there present it-O ! to Whom? PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY.

Ouestions.

1. There are some famous flower-passages in English 6.8.-

(a) In Milton's Lycadas; "Bring the ray primtose."

(b) In Shakespeare's Medsummer Night's Dre (" I know a bank whereon the wild thy blows "]; and in A Wenter's Tale (" Daffor

that come before the swallows dare"), (c) In Tennyson's In Memoriam.

Read these passages and compare them with this po 2. (a) Can you imagine an answer to Shell-

question?

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- (b) What does he mean by "these imprisoned children of the Hours"?
 - (c) Find the adjectives which are applied to the various flowers in the poem and write 2 note on their apiness and prefuresqueness.

35. THE FORSAKEN MERMAN

Matthew Arnold, the author of this poem, was the son of the famous Dr. Arnold whom we meet in Tem Brown's Schooldays. He was a learned man, and wrote many poems and books that we should find difficult to understand. But in this poem he has caught for us the magic of "sea-change" and the homeliness of earth with its " little grey church on the windy hill,"

Coste, dear children, let us away: Down and away below ! Now my brothers call from the bay Now the great winds shoreward blow ! Now the salt tides seaward flow: Now the wild white horses play, Champ and chafe and toss in the spray.

Children dear, let us away I This way, this way [

Call her once before you go. Call once yet

In a voice that she will know: " Margaret | Margaret | " Children's voices should be dear (Call once more) to a mother's ear : Children's voices, wild with pain-Surely she will come again. Call her once and come away;

This way, this way !

" Mother dear, we cannot stay." The wild white horses foam and fret, Margaret | Margaret !

Come, dear children, come away down ! Call no more ! One last look at the white-walled town.

And the little grey church on the windy shore. Then come down.

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(3) What does he mean by "these impressed children of the Hours"; 83

(i) Find the adjectives which are applied to the various flowers in the poem and wite a note on their appress and picturesquences.

35. THE FORSAKEN MERMAN

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Cour, dear children, let us away ;

Down and away below ! Now my brothers call from the bay

Now the great winds shoreward blow;
Now the salt tides seaward flow;

Now the wild winte borses play, Champ and chafe and toss in the spray,

Children dear, let us away t

This way, this way !

Call her once before you go. Call once yet

In a voice that she will know:

"Margaret | Margaret | "
Children's voices should be dear
(Call once more) to a mother's ear:

Children's voices, wild with painburely she will come again.

Call her once and come away; This way, this way!

"Mother dear, we cannot stay " The wald whate horses form and fret.

Margaret | Margaret 1

Come, dear clubben, come away down t

One last look as the white-walled town, And the little grey of urch on the windy shore. Then come down.

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She will not come though you call all day. Come away, come away !

Children dear, was it yesterday We heard the sweet bells over the bay? In the caverns where we lay, Through the surf and through the swell, The far-off sound of a silver bell? Sand-strewn caverns, cool and deep, Where the winds are all asleep; Where the spent lights quiver and gleam; Where the salt weed sways in the stream; Where the sea-beasts, ranged all round, Feed in the coze of their pasture-ground; Where the sea-snakes coil and twine. Dry their mail and bask in the brine: Where great whales come sailing by,

Sail and sail, with unshut eye, Round the world for ever and ay? When did music come this way?

Children dear, was it vesterday? Children dear, was it vesterday

(Call yet once) that she went away? Once she sate with you and me, On a red gold throne in the heart of the sea, And the youngest sate on her knee.

She comb'd its bright hair, and she tended it well, When down swung the sound of the far-off bell.

She sigh'd, she look'd up through the clear green sea; She said: "I must go, for my kinsfolk pray In the little grey church on the shore to-day. Twill be Easter-time in the world-ah me !

And I lose my poor soul, Merman, here with thee." I said: "Go up, dear heart, through the waves ! Say thy prayer, and come back to the kind seacaves

She smiled, she went up through the surf in the bay.

Children dear, was it vesterday?

Children dear, were we long alone?

The sea grows stormy, the little ones moan.
Long prayers, 'I said, 'In the world they say.
Come! 'I said, and we rose through the surf in the
bay.

We went up the beach, by the sandy down Where the sea-stocks bloom, to the white-walled town.

town.
Through the narrow paved streets, where all was still,
To the little grey church on the windy hill.

To the little grey church on the windy hill.

From the church came a murmur of folk at their
prayers.

But method without in the cald blowing size.

prayers,
But we stood without in the cold blowing airs.
We climbed on the graves, on the stones, worn with
rains,

And we gazed up the nisie through the small-leaded panes.

She axic by the pillar; we saw her clear: "Margaret, hist I come quick, we are here. Dear heart," I said, "we are long alone. The sea grows stormy, the filte ones moan," But, ah, she gave me never a look, for her eyes were sealed to the holy book I could pray the priest; shut stands the door. Come away, come down, call no more!

Come away, come down, call no more!

Down, down, down!

Down to the depths of the sea!

She sits at her wheel in the humming town,
Singing most joyfally.

Hark, what she sings: O joy, O joy,
For the humming street, and the child with its toy!
For the riest, and the bell, and the holy well—
For the wheel where I spun,

And the blessed light of the sun ! "
And so she sings her fill,
Singing most joyfully,

Till the shuttle falls from her hand, And the whizzing wheel stands still. She steals to the window, and looks at the sand, And over the sand at the sea:

And her eyes are set in a state;
And anon there breaks a sigh,
And anon there drops a tear,
From a sorrow-clouded eye.

From a serrow-clouded eye, And a heart sorrow-laden, A lone, lone sigh:

For the cold strange eyes of a little Mermilden, And the gleam of her golden hair,

Come away, away children i Come children, come down? He harre wind blows collec; Lights shine in the town the will stirt from her slumber

When gusts shake the door, the will heat the wind howher,

Will hear the waves tout We shall see, while shows up The waves tout and whith,

A ceiling of amber,

A pavement of peath,

in my Hero camo a mortal,

I at fast less was also

And alone dwell for ever the kings of the sea.

I've at differen at meder filt.

Velvere sede atte wittele bleve.

Velvere sede atte wittele bleve.

Velvere sede atte sede atte filt.

Velvere sede atte sede atte filt.

Velvere sede atte sede atte filt.

he me tour a starr from he with the forces throw many to both a first starter from: Up the still, glistening beaches,
Up the crecks we will hic,
Over banks of bright seaweed
The ebb-tide leaves dry.
We will gaze from the sand-bill

We will gaze, from the sand-hills, At the white, sleeping town; At the church on the hill-side—

And then come back down.

Singing: "There dwells a loved one,
But cruel is she!

She left lonely for ever The kings of the sea.

MATTHEW ARNOLD.

Questions.

Who is speaking in this poem? Who was Margaret?
 Why did she wish to go back to the earth at Easter-time?

 Does this poem remind you at all of Ariel's little song on p. 78? It so, quote the part which reminds you of it particularly.

3. What stories or legends do you know concerning mermalds?

General Overhous. I Write down three natury themes from memory. Draw a

ricture to Clustrate each of them. a Why are you able to remember nursery thymes so well i Which could you learn more readily—twenty lines of rems of titteen lines of proces Why and

3 Which poems in this book tell a story? Would you prefer

to have they stories written in prose?

4 Try to make a verse of your own to begin the story of (a) Red Ridling Hood; (b) The Dog in the Manger; (c) The Argonauts. He sure that your lines have thythm (see the Introduction), and that they shyme correctly,

3. Write down as many words as you can that will rhyme

with the following words: sky, gold, leaf, kill, sorrow, kouse, The following pairs of words do not make true shymes:

day quay, wind . . . dimmed. mora . . . daws.

Why not? What seems to you to be necessary for a true thyms? 6. You often see little shymes on advertising posters, e.g.

THE SUN SHINES MOST OY THE SOUTHERY COAST.

Try to make up a rhyme for a poster.

7. When you get an opportunity read Robert Browning's famous poem The Park Priper of Hamelin. There are some

queer and clover rhymes in it. Write them down.

8. Here are three passages of verse printed in prose form.

Write them out carefully in verse form .

(a) A widow bird sate mourning for her love upon a wintry bough; the frozen wind crept on above, the freezing stream below. There was no leaf apon the forest bare, no flower upon the ground, and little motion in the air except the mill-wheel's sound.

(Note that there is one rhyme in this poem which is not quite perfect : bough . . . below.] (b) [This passage is taken from Longfellow's Hiaratha.

which does not rhyme. You will see an example of its thythm on p. 13.)

Hidden in the alder-bushes, there he waited till the deer came, till be saw two antiers lifted, saw two eyes look from the thicket, saw two postrals point to windward, and a deer came down the pathway. flecked with leafy light and shadow. And his heart within him fluttered, trembled like the leaves above him, like the birch-leaf pulpitated, as the deer came down the pathway.

(f) She left the web, the left the foom, the made three paces through the room, the saw the water-life bloom, the saw the helmet and the plume, she look of down to Camelot. Out flow the web and floated wide; the mirror crack'd from tide to side. "The turns is tome upon me," crack the Lady of bhall.

9. Write down-

(a) Ten words that you think musical to sound; e.g. gloeming, forlors

(b) Ten words whose sound suggests their meaning; e.g.

Why do poets me such words? Use the words that you have

written down, in good sentences of your own

10 Which words in the two following passages seem to you
particularly portic or musical? Try to ally why they seem so
to you.

(a) I steal by tawns and grassy plots,
I slade by harel-covers;
I move the sweet forcet-me-nots

I move the aweet forget-me-nota That grow for happy lovers

1 slip, 1 slide, 1 gloom, 1 glance Among my shumming swallows;

I make the cetted aunteams dance Against my sandy shallows

I murmur under moon and stars

I linger by my abingly bart:

(b) The curiew tolls the hnell of parting day,
The lowing berd wind alonly o er the les,

The plowman bomeward plots his weary way, And leaves the world to darkness and to me

New fades the climmering landwaye on the sight, And all the our a soleme stallors holds, Sare where the bestle wheels his droning flight, And drowry tinkings bull the distant tolds.

11 In each of the tlank spaces in the following passage insert e good word of your own. The times thyrose in pairs. Remember that your words should keep the phythm of the portis;

Thre, chauntrees, oft the woods among I woo, to hear thy _____.
And, missing thre, I walk _____.

To behold the green, Riting near her highest moon,

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And oft, as if her head she ----Stooping through a --- cloud. Oft, on a - of - ground, I hear the -- curiew sound. Over some --- shore, Swinging slow with --- roar,

12. Write down carefully what you might imagine-(a) in passing through a thick wood on a dark windy

(b) shout a little thatched house with a crooked chimney; (c) on looking at a scare-crow covered with frost;

(d) as you sat by the side of a tiny brook that is afterwards to become a great river; on finding mushrooms in a meadow;

if you heard a strange sound at your bedroom window on Christmas Eve.

13. Describe these things as beautifully as you can ! (a) full moon behind the trees;

(b) a little boat with white sails on a river;

(c) clouds on a windy day;
(d) an express train dashing through a quiet station; a) the wind blowing on a corn-field; (A apple-blossom.

14. Who are the thieves in the following poem? Over the bills, from far, The thieves stole in to-night,

A clouded moon and a lonely star To make their candle light. Nightlong as I lay a-dream.

Not quiet, as thieves should be, They wrought with shout and shrick and scream Their noisy burglary. But out of dark and cold

The great sun came at dawn; So the frightened thieves have left their gold And treasure on our lawn ! When I woke up, I stood Amidst the loot of the thieves,-

Conkers and acorns and sticks of wood, And a pile of golden leaves, Try to write something facciful about-(a) frost on the window-pane; (b) snow in the sught:

i thunder: (4) a shattered rose.

NOTES

28

[These notes have been specially scritten for the Indian sistem of this book and are not the work of the original editors]

R. S. Hawken (1803.75) was a poet and antiquery, who lived in and wrote of the countr of Cornwall.

Lendon Torer; on the north side of London Bridge, used now parily as a museum, partly as a harracks. Its interesting

bistorical associations make it a favourite resort for vintors.

Michael's hold; the old coatle picturesquely crowning St.

Michaels Mount, off the couth coast of Cornwall, occupying

Michaels Mount, off the south coast of Cornwall, occupying a position almost impregnable before the days of modern artitlery.

Leaden Wall; portlens of the Roman wall which used to surround London may still be seen, and the positions of the old rates can be detected from names the Aligate, Pathopsrate, Aldersgate, etc., now districts to the city.

Six F. H. S. Doyle (1810-1944) succeeded Matthew Arnold as Professor of Poetry at Oxford.

(The English addier, whose explare by the Chinese in 1800) is recorded here, refuned to kneel to his explore, and was immodisting recorded.)

Sever held it for ; it is was content to live for the moment only.

Today; contrasted with last mode.

Picas Lerl Eign was at the time Eritish Ambassalor to



leads the ball ; takes the leading place in the opening dance.

ladge; the older English and poetscal spelling. The w stands

for an Old English o, the word originally, being histo-dige, she who kneeds (doughe) the bread (load). the ring they ride; the fight in the tournament. Note the alliteration in this ballad. Alliteration was the chief metrical

device of older English poetry, and ballade are either old carrative songs or are written in mutation of them. Dryden's groves of oak; Dryden's estate near Rosslyn, famon for an avenue of oaks. Hawshormen is also in the neighbour

hood, pinnel; punnacle or turret,

with condic, with book, and with Inell; i. e. with the full riter of the Christian church. The prose phrase is with bell, bood and condic, all three of which played their part in the creemo thal service.

(From Roleby, III, xvi.)

Brignall; Brignall, Greta and Dalton Hall all he in the same heighbourhood in the North Riding of Yorkshire.

heighbourhood in the North Riding of Yorkshire, wad; The old English word meant literally to interpret, discret, make out, and the older chade of meaning survivers in few phrases; cf. 'read between the lines,' and the use of the

word in the next stanzas of this poem.

Europer; name given to keeper of park or estate.

tuck; old form of 'touch'.

midde; old English and now Scottish dialect word for great cl. the proverb: "Many s little makes a mickle."

The find whose lanters lights the meal; the will-o'-the-wign the phosphorescent light sometimes seen on swampy ground also called Jack-o'-langers. Cf. note on Water-Sprite above.

Thomas Caurnett (1777-1844), of whose work only a few poems are stall popularly enjoyed. Campbell played as important part in the founding of London University. a of we pound, a pound of allow and once to be the equivafect of £1

Lockeyls. Its the programmation of Lock, are note to Carlo Reconstruct unity to Lockeyle and Ulea's Ide In near Mail of the near count of Speling.

mucht, person; a word reserved now for use in pretry,

denotes; denot us a portic form of the more usual densy. Note that the rhymne in this poem are alternatively single and double, sometimes called marrains and fermione.

Lond Prent (1784-1921), author of Childs Harold.

(For the corp of this perm see the fible, II King, ch. sit, II Charache, a. 1111, both of which first account of King Herkuth a spratel defence arount the Asyman. These the large allers while people of picks, "Be strong and consequent be not afraid or demarged for the king of Asymia, nor for all the multitude that is with him, for there be more with ar than with him; with him is one of deal; but with us is the Lord out God to shap is and to fight nor bathles.")

coloris; really a name of a division of the Roman army.

Angel of Death; "And the Lord sent an angel, which ent of ell the mighty men of valour, and the leaders and captains in the camp of the king of Asyna."—II Chron. xxxii, 21; cf. II Kings, xix, 33.

evidous of Ashur; Sennacherib was killed by his sons after treturn from the unsuccessful was against Judah while worshipping in a temple of Assyrian gods. Bull and Ashur are names of Assyrian gods. Ashur being the great national delty, is taken here to stand for Assyria tised.

brile; an unusual form of the past participle 'broken' now scarely used except in the along expression brids meaning' "rained financially. For the several control of the conwrite tomostics in modern East." These unusual forms write tomostics in modern East on the control of the have to meet the demands of mark. SIDNEY DONALL (1824-1874), poet and critic, a pionser of what is now known as "co-operation" in trade.

shadowy line; i. s. they too are ghosts. One Old English way to mark the plural was to add the suffix on (as oz, acres). Another was to change the nost vowel (as man, men) Both ways are used in this word, for the Old English word was cu, plural ext double nitral even it kme.)

#ile; stiles dividing fields are favourite meeting and resting places for country folk.

heak-bells; students who have read Shake-pears know how popular were the sports of falcoury and hawking in olden days in Britain.

burnis; diminutive of burn.

Whilian Cowers (1731-1800), one of the herelds of the great so-called romantic group of 19th century English poets, which includes Wordsworth, Coleridge, Byron, Scott, Shelley and Keats.

(The Royal George was a battleship which sank off Portsmouth in 1782. More than half of her crew, ancluding Admiral Kempenfelt, were drowned.)

Tell; church bells are 'tolled', 'made to ring', in alow measured time, to celebrate a person's death.

everset; turned over. That she was 'overset' was the official account, but it seems to be a fact that she sank because of leaks brought on by her 'uncound timbers'.

weigh; lift, cf. the phrase the anchor's weighed'.

10
Jaura 11000, (1770-1835), of lowly birth, and familiarly

known as 'the Ettrick Shepherd'. Ha was befriended by Sir Walter Scott.

hawthern; has is the same word (Old English haps) as helps, the play; "the play" would ordinarily mean in English "the drams." We should say in modern English "from play",

or from their games.

Fonene Revere f 1231-1671 L. takes us back again a most to the days of Shakespears. All Herrick's great poetes! successes were in the firm of short storge.

tirle, this is me of Herrick's farments words; it recent I an in this grown He werte in fact a furinating over foundol an the word, begraning "A little munt bert fine little thrine"

burney, a pentry for shores.

unfired, undergot, unchannel Or is may be an all dislots with unfal mountain unfirial class.

pulse, creited represties.

worts : herbu.

purchas, nor particular kind of berb and in misde: the Latin betanical name for the group to portulate.

saves, the ceremonial space burnt in certain religious services, Here it is the pleasing smell of the cooked food which arts as sprener, and drives the poet to acknowledge the food as Gyl's good gift.

12

ALLAN CUNNINGRAM (1784-1842), anthor of the South of Setland

short: the rore by which a sail is hauled in.

tight; understand with before this line, tight means fulned tight so as to be impervious to water.

horsel: alluding to the extremities of the waxing or waning moon.

out : "Hearts of ouk " was the old and popular name given to the wooden shire which composed England's navy.

couples : a comple (Latin copula) is properly the leash used for tring two hunting dogs together. We still speak of the 'coupling' of railway carriages.

, knelling ; ordinarily used of a bell, and of a bell rung for a and occasion.

dismonds: the sparkles of dew; ef. the use of pearls at the end of 16.

brought to bay to curious idiom. Boy is barking. The deer is brought up against the bounds which buy, but the phrase also suggests no escape', because of the other meaning of boy,

14

. T. L. PERCOCK (1785-1866), wrote some very learned novels, full of discussion. This poem, which is a trio, written to be sung, comes from his movel called Nichtware Abber

(The nursery rhyme is :

TATELL. ٠...

> Three wise men-of Gotham Went to eca in a bowl. And if the bowl had been stronger

My song would have been longer. Gotham, near Nottingham, was famous for the foolishness of

its inhabitants—they were just the kind of people who would try 'to rake the moon out of the sea'. The idea is derived perhaps from the old story of a farmer's wife who mistook the reflection of the moon in the water for e chease, and tried to get it out with a rake.) Jove's decree; Jupiter (Jove) is the plenet of happy

influence; cf. the adjective jours! which means cheerful. ballast ; (bore-lost) i. e. the least load a ship must carry to keep stable. Lost is a word still used for a kind of weight.

"WILLIAM WORDSWORTS (1770-1850). His poetry is psculiarly, as all poetry is generally, imaginative. Coleridge wrote of Wordsworth's share in the Larical Ballads (1798) to which both poets contributed, that Wordsworth was to give the charm of novelty to things of everyday life by awakening the mind's attention to the loveliness and wonders of the world before us'. And note that Wordsworth here takes two of the simplest kind of incidents, yet is able so to clothe them that they thrill us with their beauty.

(1)

weren; lit the pull or tension on anything, used the matically of a green of music are posity.

numbers; pretical word for seven. Herrick's prem (No. 11) is from a collection of his more pious versus entitled Noble Numbers.

(n)

Libe; Ullewster in the Lake Practice.

symplify, see with an Water-Sports in 4-spirited or lively. The cluncing of the deficitle infects the proc's mind, so that all things seem to his smannation to be during with happiness.

Fair; brutiful. The Old English word for beauty was

stem-song; the evening service of the Church of England; Morning prayer is "matting".

prarie; see note to demonds under 13.

37

(Cf. with this Herrick's well known lines beginning:

'Gather ye teacheds while ye may
Old time is still a fiyng,
And the sime flower that smiles to-day

Tomorrow will be dying.')

Ye; strictly the nonunative plural of the second personal

pronoun. Now only retained for special, chiefly poetical, usages.

arks; covered boxes; Nonh's Ark was a covered ressel, in which he was saved, according to the story in the Old Testament,

which he was saved, according to the story in the Old Testament, from the universal flood, couclips; see the account of couclips in No. 23, last air lines

round; i. e., a round dance.

round; i. e., a round dance, croun'd; cf. Tennyson's popular poem about the 'Queen of the May.' The 'Queen' was the girl chosen to act as such in

the May games at the spring festival.

1

18

ROBERT BROWERSO (1812-1869), whose longer posms are so packed full of thought that they are often difficult to understand, wrote also the most delightful, and often the simplest, of songs.

(i)

Non that April's there; When spring has reclothed all the fields and trees and flowers with new life

the little children's descer; English mendows look all yellow with buttercups in April. The melon too is yellow, but its colour has not the brilliance of the common buttercup, for all the melops' richness and tropfeal fuzuriance.

60

Caps Saint Pineent; off which in 1797 Admiral Jervis defeated the Spannards.

reding; lit. smalner; but used sometimes of blood. The effect of the sunset on the sea was that of a great smasr of blood.

Oddir Bay: where Sir Francis Drake boldly entered and

burnt some of the abject the Spanish Armada in 1597.

Trafulger; the word is here to be accented on the second

syllable—the scene of Nelson's Ismous navel vectory in 1905.

Gibralian: whose supture (1704) and repeated defence play

so prominent a part in English hastory.

Whose turns as I; The sense will be clear if this line and the preseduce one are treatprosed in thought.

13

S. T. Cournings (1772-1834). Unlike Worlsworth, Coleridge's imagination led him to write of other worldly scenes. See note on 'Worlsworth' above.

See note on 'Wordsworth' above.

(This poem was written in Germany, and in imitation of a German folk-sone. Coloridge himself called it, 'something I somewhat I childsel, but see natural')

20

Ecerar Patrons (1986-), practical as a doctor of medicine until 1982

Is need to was fed; "Little Robin Redbressts", as children
like to call them, are happy enough in winter time in England
to rick up the crambs thrown them by kindly people.

As front, which is conspicuously red-see the spithet which begins the next poem.

(#)

denset; den (been), and df (do-off) are words only modin poetry now.

21

(1)

WILLIAM FRAME (1757-1467). A critic has said of him: "He was the first child to be a preet, the first pret to be a child. He did not merely ang childheed; maker childheed sang in him as it never sang before or since. He was the first evalueties of worth."

And there the lum's raddy care; i. e. in the 'new worlds'. See the question in the introduction to the poem (p. 50 above) which is from Issiah, ch. XI, G.

Him who bors thy marse; see second stanza of next poem. Jesus Chrict is called 'the Lamb of God'—cf. John, ch. I. 70, 37, in reference to his secrifice of Himself, just as the 'hamb without spot or blemish' was an ordained beart of marifice among the Jesus.

(ii)

We are called by His name; cf. John, ch. XXI, 15.

threw down their spears; i. e. as a token of peace.

99

William Allinonam (1824-1889), an Irishman who came to London, and became editor of a famous magazine-rushy; suggesting the rushes growing beside the stream the glen or valler.

red cap: shaped like a cone. All these, with silver shoes, make up the legendary fairy equipment.

reels: fairles were supposed to fashion their arrows from reeds.

nich: the old positive degree of near.

Sliersleague; a sliene (Gaelic) is a mountain. The places named are all Irish.

Northern lights; the Aurora Borealis, or 'northern dawn'; a wonderful illumination of the atmosphere, spreading from the North Pole, and supposed, according to Scandinavian legend, to be the sign of merry-making among the spirits.

stole; the fairies were supposed cometimes to steal human children, substituting a fairy or elf child in their place.

flag-loanes; reeds or rushes.

. WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (1564-1616). Shakespeare's somnets and songe, many of them hidden away in the famous plays, are too often lost sight of in the greatness of his dramatic work.

(This is a fairy song from A Midnemmer Night's Dream, II. i. The scene is a wood, and the song as Titanua's reply to Puck's opening question : 'Row now, Sparit. Whither wander you!')

Thorough ; and through derive from the same Old English word. The second syllable of the former was abort, and so was dropped unless the word was used emphatically. Thorough is now the adjective, through the prepontion,

mones :- es was the commonest cenitive ending of Old

English nouns -- modern English's sphere : track, traversing, so 'speed upon her track'.

ords upon the green; rings of darker grass, actually the work of fungi, but according to old superstituon, caused by the dancing of fairies.

pensioners : retainers, gentlemen attendants.

foreurs; love tokens. The mediaeval knight wore the 'fayour' of his chosen lady.

peorl: as an ear-ring.

31

Parance R. Cratteres, a Fretenan who combines an artistals I:r business—he is a director of the Mercanile Bank of In Ita-with a trient for poetry.

(1)

I "Hyperathus, and the Species King Amylic, was a beautiful provid, belowed by Apillo and Zephyrus. He returned the live of Apillo, the set has been as the set of Apillo, but as has been as the set of Apillo, but as has been as the set of Apillo in earlier the bowl of the profit, and full him on the spec. From the lived of Hyperithus three special tile Sovier of the same and (hyperith), in the leaves of which appeared the estimation of more AIA for the kiter Y being the initial of Hipperithus, "South's Classical Declaratory, The story may be found in Orly Metacorophon, Ex. X.)

The fill of ... : enough to fill a . .

the led of old; Hyacuthus, see story above.

Our Lord of Sing; Apollo was the god of song as well as the god of the sun.

Could column rors, etc; 'could any graven monument be a better memorial of grief?' The flower even appears to hear an epitaph of wos. See story above.

(ii)

stool ; milking stool.

I'd have to bey; 'I should become as poor as a begger.'

tenty; a Scottish dislect word for "attenties"; attend is a word found very frequently in the poetry of Burns.

Noath my door beam; my is emphasized. The fairy comes to the door, standing beneath the beam overhead, and takes her gifts; cf. the phrase "cross my threshold".

25

H. W. Longrettow (1817-1832), the kindly and upright American poet, author of Hiswaths, Econoctics, etc.

(For an illustration of the kind of English windmill sung of here, see the publishers sign on the title page of books

published by Mesers. Heinemann. The sulls stand as high again as the mill listelf and make a pronument and picturesque landmark to be seen from many miles distant in the flat districts where such mills are generally found.)

whichever way it may blos; the head of the mell, so to speak, to which the sails are attached, as mechanically contrived to veer round, so that the sails always meet the wind

Church-going boils; an elliptical phrase standing for 'bells ringing for church-going'.

26

DOROTHE MARGARET STEART, author of Sword Songs, in a well known contribution, algoing herself 'D, M. S., 'to the apeas of Punch. More Indian stodents know this weekly illustrated paper which offers a humorous commentary on contemporary affairs as they appear to Engladmen.

(A reconstructed model of the dinosant is shown at the Natural Illatory Museum in South Kensington, London, where it has become a favourite' awful joy' to crowds of children. The word means iterally terrible iterd—the model stands as blick as a bit tree.)

eld; An old English, now only poetical, word for 'old age'.
Crowl to the corp brink; as the new race of emphisious
creatures first becam.

(ii)

(From a series Smort of the Assista Crafts in Historical Smost and Ballots, published by Meney George G. Harrap & Co., Lai) trubilet foil is the Latin word Edium (Empleh Like) a

trifold: foil is the Latin word folium (English folio) a cal. A trifold cup is one ornamental with a three leaf device. know; here is an almost checket word meaning bad.

plan; the glossy solutance with which pottery is fixed and

overed.

weep; on old English word for shale; found eccumonly in the
lable and Chakenness.

placed; propounce stated.

greats; a small silver coin, worth about sixpence, in use in incland up to the seventeenth century.

A FIRST BOOK

27 (Sen As You Like R. II. eri.)

undent; tend is the all English word for Nuture. So that

indicated from the firm of the first more for the fire the first first firm from the first more manufactorial.

rule; in the older sense of rue or Aarsh.

This left; in the forest where 'unkind' man is not found.

mild; i. e. to one's heart.

warp; out from their normal liquid condition,

23 (Sung by Winter at the end of Lord's Labour Lost.)

ı

Move Ais sail; because his fingers have grown numb with 1; or it may possibly mean 'elles', 'fidgets'; ef. 'kicks his le'.

ups be foul; paths are muddy.
ni; 'make to cool': cf. leal=to make whole.

Il aloud; very loud.

10 ; saying ; moralising.

uls; crab-apples, wild apples about the size of grapes.

29 (Tempes, I, in.) inc: an interesting word. The first word of the Latin

ce for the dead is dirios=direct ('O God direct us').

thorn; a measure (six feet) used is sounding depth of water.

thing of him, etc. i.e. all his body, which seems to pear gradually away, as transformed into substances of or.

ear them; singing behind the stage.

30

CORD TENNISON (1809-1892), poet laureate and author idylls of the King.

(This is a song from The Princess (1847), a poem which celebrated the coming of higher education of women in England.)

31

sholer; describing the shimmering of the air. between Effand; fairs wites.

24

(The story of The Ancient Mariner is well known. The mariner and has shipmatte were made to underpo all hinds determine experience, because he had shot an allatrons. He repreded of his credity to eno of Gol's envetures, but the representity of his repentance made hum ammous to tell his tall to all he would get to heteral.

bemock'd; because moon beams suggest cold.

things that crawled 'with legs upon the slimy sea '.

Avery: the water falling off their bodies aparkled like freet

In the moonlight,

my kind sund; according to the Roman Cutholic religion each
man has his emantion suits.

(u)

jargening: In Chancer's time (18th century) jargen was used, as here, of the talk of baris. Properly it has no bal meaning, but it is now applied to any kind of nonsensical 'gibbertah'.

23

Jone Krans (1795-1821), whose short life did not pertent the highest posteral achievement. His longest posters are Endpaint and Hyperon, but his Oles of which this is one, show perhaps the finest of his work.

maturing; making to mature or ripen.

thatch-error; some are the everbanging edges of the roof.



Hours; The Hors were the Roman maiden-goddeness of the wather. Their children are the flowers which 'kept the same heas' rtc.

35

MATTHEW ARXOLD (1822-1868). See introduction to poem p. 80 above.

Merman; mere is the regular Old English word for sea. The merman (like the mermaid) is a mythological creature half human, half fish.

while horses; waves with white crests.

ipen lights; the light was dimmed by the depth of the

Easter time; at Easter occur the most colourn of the festivels of the Christian Church, relebrating the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

sor-stocks; a kind of gilly flowers.

small-leaded; the glass of the windows was broken up into small panes held with leads. scaled; fired,

holy cell; new spines and wells were extremely valuable discoveries in mediatral England, as clawhere in primitive innes, and supertition endowed them, whether their waters presented any special health guing properties or not, with relations smartier, 'Holy' sells are commently found still in England, though the local supertitions attached to them have died ways.

spring-tides; the exceptionally 'high' and 'low' tides which occur shortly after new and fall moons.

broom; a yellow flowered shrub often found on the sea-shore.



